

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 800

EXDIS

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TAGS OAS CO

SUBJ: COLOMBIAN FORNMIN LIEVANO RAISES POSSIBLE CANDIDACY OF
EX-PRES PASTRANA FOR OAS SEC GEN

REF BOGOTA

1. DURING HIS JAN 23 MEETING WITH AMBS VAKY AND MAILLIARD (SEE REFTTEL), FONMIN LIEVANO DISCUSSED THE CURRENT FIELD OF CANDIDATES FOR THE OAS SECYGEN POSITION. HE BELIEVED THAT NONE OF THE CANDIDATES PRESENTLY ON THE HORIZON WOULD GET THE JOB, WITHER BECAUSE THEY WERE "TOO WEAK" OR LACKED SUFFICIENTLY BROAD SUPPORT. HE THOUGHT THE CANDIDACY OF ARGENTINA'S ORFILA WOULD BE BLOCKED BY THE OPPOSITION OF BRAZIL AND ITS SUPPORTERS, AND IN ANY CASE DOUBTED THAT ORFILA ENJOYED THE WHOLE HEARTED SUPPORT OF HIS OWN GOVT. IN APPARENT REF TO BRAZIL'S "SUPPORTERS", LIEVANO SAID BRAZIL HAS ASSIDUOUSLY COURTED BOLIVIA, PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "BUFFERS", IN ORDER TO LIMIT ARGENTINA'S INFLUENCE. HE DESCRIBED BRAZIL'S VOTE TO ABSTAIN IN QUITO AS BASED OT ON IDEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS, BUT RATHER DESIGNED TO GRATIFY THE THREE BORDERING COUNTRIES.

2. THE MIN REMARKED THAT THE "STRONG" CANDIDATES WERE STILL IN THE WINGS AND THEN ASKED THE AMBASSADORS WHAT THEY THOUGHT ABOUT COLOMBIAN EX-PRES MISAEL PASTRANA AS A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE. AMBS VAKY AND MAILLIARD INDICATED THAT ANTHBLE AND PRESTIGIOUS CANDIDATE FRM A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY, SUCH AS COLOMBIA, WOULD
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PROBABLY COMMAND BROAD SUPPORT.

3. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH IN AN EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH AMB VAKY, LIEVANO HAD MENTIONED PASTRANA (BOGOTA 8681) AS A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR THE IDB PRESIDENCY, THIS IS THE FIRST INDICATION THAT THE GOC MIGHT BE CONSIDERING ADVANCING THE CANDIDACY OF PASTRANA OR ANY OTHER COLOMBIAN FOR THE OAS JOB. IT WAS NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, FROM THE CONTEXT OF LIEVANO'S REMARKS WHETHER PASTRANA WAS UNDER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OR WHETHER LIEVANO WAS SIMPLY TESTING THE WATER. VAKY

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